GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:450
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2004
LEVEL OF RURAL WAGE EARNER
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly 35% of India`s villages are yet to be connected by roads;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that rural wage earner is only half as compared to an urban wage earner for the same level of income; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bridge the gap between rural employment generation growth and urban employment growth and to improve the connectivity of villages with roads with a view to turn rural poverty stricken areas into a Potential market?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

The Statement referred to in Reply to the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 450 to be answer on 26.8.2004.

(a) The unit for planning under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is the `Habitation`. As per the Core Network prepared by the State Governments, as on 25.12.2000, the total number of Habitations in the country is 8,48,911 out of which 3,29,311 are unconnected. The number of unconnected habitations eligible to be covered under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is 1,70,680. Since commencement of PMGSY 30,269 habitations have been covered under PMGSY and 1,363 habitations under other Schemes. The balance unconnected 2,97,679 eligible habitations are 35.1% of the total number of habitations.

(b) Rural and urban wages are area and occupation specific, but rural and urban poverty ratios can be used to draw general conclusions on the relative levels of socio- economic well-being. As such though both rural and urban poverty ratios have come down significantly, there is still a gap, since between 1977-78 and 1999-00, rural poverty ratio has come down from 53.1% to 27.1% while urban poverty ratio has come down from 45.2% to 23.6%

(c) Though rural roads is in the State List as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) has been conceived as a special central intervention as part of the poverty reduction strategy and to bridge the rural-urban divide. PMGSY aims at providing all-weather roads to about 1.70 lakh unconnected rural habitations to enable access to economic and social services.